

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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FOR PATRICIA DERIAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF DERIAN VISIT

THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OCCURRED AT THE MARCH 31 NOON PRESS
BRIEFING:

Q. -- I HAVE A QUESTION ON ANOTHER ISSUE.

A. SURE.

Q. MS. PATT DERIAN IS NOW IN ARGENTINA.

A. YES, SHE IS.

Q. AND ACCORDING TO THE POST TODAY, SHE WAS QUOTED AS
SAYING IN A STAFF MEETING AT THE EMBASSY IN ANSWER TO A
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QUESTION ON U.S. MILITARY AID, "WE RE NOT GOING TO BE SELL-
ING THEM THUMBSCREWS ANY MORE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN."
ARE YOU AWARE -- I MEAN IS THIS A DIRECT QUOTE, AND DOES
THIS REFLECT U.S. POLICY?

A. WELL, I HAVE JUST SEEN THE NEWS ITEM ON THAT AND I'M
NOT GOING TO TRY TO COMMENT ON WHAT IS REPORTEDLY SAID IN

SOME KIND OF EMBASSY MEETING, JUAN. I CAN'T ADDRESS THAT.

MRS. DERIAN IS ON A FAMILIARIZATION TRIP TO ARGENTINA. SHE'S GOING TO SPEND FIVE DAYS DOWN THERE. HER PURPOSE IS TO CONSULT WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND TO OBTAIN AN APPRECIATION OF THE PROBLEMS IN ARGENTINA. THIS IS HER FIRST TRIP ABROAD. SHE PLANS TO TAKE OTHER TRIPS TO GET FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES TO GIVE HER A MORE DIRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED THERE.

I CAN'T ADDRESS YOUR SECOND QUESTION. I THINK OUR POLICY WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN STATED MANY TIMES, AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO OFFER ANYTHING NEW IN CONNECTION WITH THE DERIAN VISIT TO ARGENTINA. IT'S AS I SAY, NOT A NEGOTIATING MISSION OF ANY SORT; IT'S PURELY A FAMILIARIZATION VISIT.

Q. IS SHE GOING TO TALK WITH THE ARGENTINES? YOU MENTIONED U.S. EMBASSY.

A. NO DOUBT SHE WILL MEET WITH VARIOUS ARGENTINIAN OFFICIALS DURING HER FIVE-DAY STAY. THAT WOULD BE PART OF HER FAMILIARIZATION WITH THE PROBLEM AND PART OF HER ATTEMPT TO BECOME MUCH MORE CONVERSANT WITH THE DETAILS OF HER WORK.

Q. COULD YOU TAKE A QUESTION ON WHETHER SHE MADE REMARKS LIKE THIS OR SIMILAR AT THE STAFF MEETING?

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A. WE DON'T USUALLY COMMENT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON QUOTED REMARKS FROM INTERNAL MEETINGS IN AN EMBASSY. I DON'T THINK I WILL GET YOU A COMMENT ON THAT, FRANKLY. CHRISTOPHER

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Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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